December 21, 1956

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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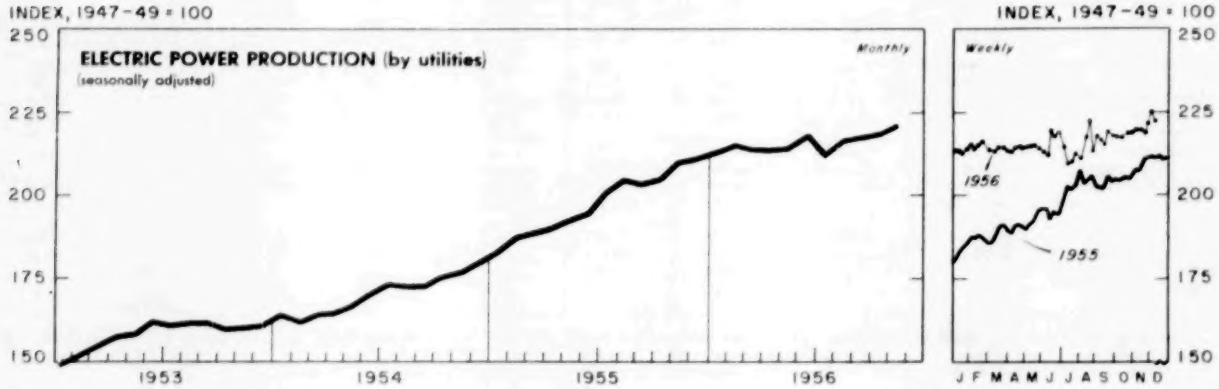
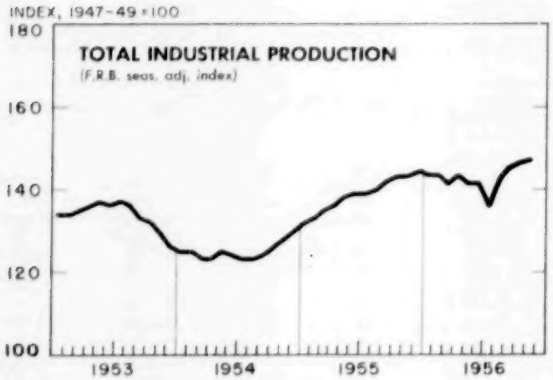
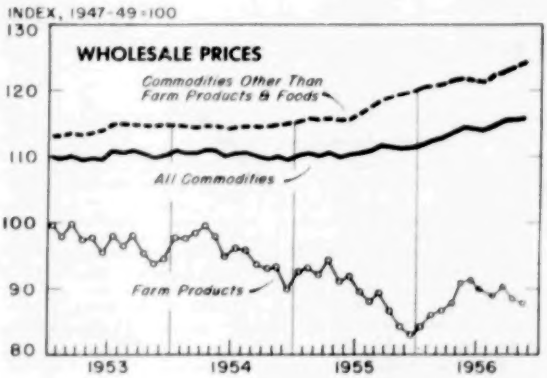
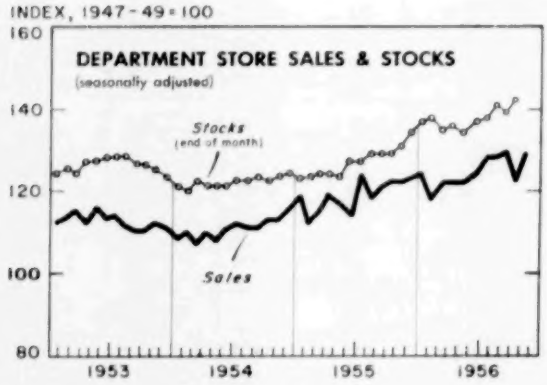
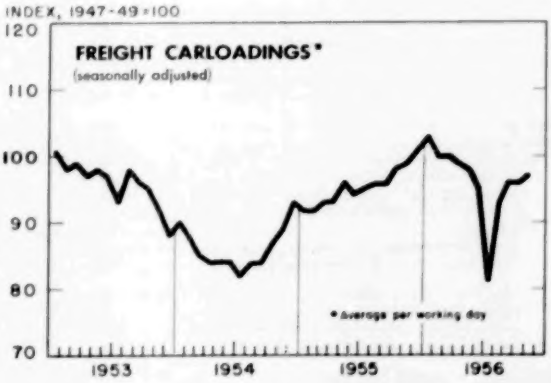
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS











WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*111.3	.....	.....	116.0	116.2
Farm products.....do....	.....	*82.9	.....	.....	86.8	88.5
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*98.2	.....	.....	103.2	103.1
All other.....do....	.....	*119.8	.....	.....	124.5	124.6
22 commodities 2/.....do....	89.6	89.2	93.0	93.8	93.5	93.2
Department store sales.....do....	235	255	148	196	225	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,138	1,181	1,163	1,217	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,029	1,069	1,065	1,116	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	31,070	31,244	31,269	31,355	31,450	31,660
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/....do....	26,274	26,428	26,266	26,374	26,165	26,633
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,869	18,950	19,311	19,375	19,068	19,220
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	458	462	691	716	440	609
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	57,256	58,558	55,900	56,632	56,745	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	21,582	21,615	21,764	21,761	21,780	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	85,451	85,698	86,431	86,207	86,171	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	29,559	29,559	26,254	26,141	25,820	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do....	26,117	26,317	30,449	30,407	30,480	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,156	8,156	8,860	8,855	8,848	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	219	247	207	254	270	249
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.32	3.34	3.92	3.95	3.96	3.97
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand.& Poor's) 4/..1935-39=100..	327.7	324.9	328.5	326.8	339.9	337.7
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	377.4	374.1	382.5	380.3	398.0	395.2
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,823	1,781	1,828	1,823	1,768	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	11,426	11,602	11,439	12,075	12,047	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	206,279	196,422	136,245	185,038	191,667	186,316
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,923	6,946	7,195	7,133	7,353	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,416	1,421	2,463	2,489	2,493	2,522
Percent of capacity 5/.....	#100.1	#100.3	100.1	101.1	101.3	102.4
Freight carloadings, total 6/.....thous. of cars..	722	715	651	752	738	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	371	369	328	375	377	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning December 17, 1956: Production, 2,511 thous. short tons; operating rate, 102.0 percent. 6/ Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class I railroads. * Monthly index for December 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955		1956			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Industrial production (FRB):						
Unadjusted, combined index.....1947-49=100..	147	145	142	146	150	p149
Manufactures.....do....	150	148	143	147	152	p150
Durable manufactures.....do....	164	163	155	162	r167	p168
Primary metals.....do....	149	149	118	145	149	p149
Metal fabricating (including ordnance).....do....	173	174	168	172	r179	p182
Fabricated metal products.....do....	145	139	135	143	r145	p141
Machinery.....do....	169	164	167	r176	181	p178
Transportation equipment.....do....	200	216	188	182	199	p217
Instruments and related products.....do....	158	159	168	r172	r174	p175
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	128	128	123	125	r127	p120
Lumber and products.....do....	138	124	135	r133	r130	p120
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	161	157	164	r157	r165	p163
Miscellaneous manufactures.....do....	154	152	145	r150	155	p150
Nondurable manufactures.....do....	135	132	131	133	136	p133
Printing and publishing.....do....	135	135	129	134	139	.....
Petroleum and coal products.....do....	138	140	142	r145	140	p142
Minerals.....do....	127	127	130	r132	r133	p131
Coal.....do....	88	87	87	91	93	p90
Crude oil and natural gas.....do....	143	147	150	r147	r148	p151
Adjusted, combined index.....do....	143	143	142	145	r146	p147
Manufactures.....do....	145	145	144	147	147	p148
Durable manufactures.....do....	161	161	158	164	r164	p166
Primary metals.....do....	148	149	124	148	r147	p149
Metal fabricating (including ordnance).....do....	173	172	172	176	r177	p180
Fabricated metal products.....do....	142	139	134	142	r142	p141
Machinery.....do....	164	162	174	176	r177	p176
Transportation equipment.....do....	208	212	195	198	r201	p213
Instruments and related products.....do....	156	158	171	r172	r173	p174
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	124	123	124	124	r122	p119
Lumber and products.....do....	130	124	129	126	r122	p120
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	153	156	160	154	r157	p161
Miscellaneous manufactures.....do....	145	145	148	146	146	p143

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary.

ITEM	1955		1956			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS - Continued						
Industrial production (FRB) - Continued						
Adjusted index - Continued						
Manufactures - Continued						
Nondurable manufactures.....1947-49=100..	129	130	129	129	130	p131
Printing and publishing.....do....	131	130	134	133	135	.....
Petroleum and coal products.....do....	137	139	139	143	r139	p140
Minerals.....do....	125	125	128	128	r129	p130
Coal.....do....	80	80	87	87	85	p83
Crude oil and natural gas.....do....	143	147	150	r147	r148	p151
Consumer durables output (FRB):						
Unadjusted index, total.....do....	146	159	120	r113	r129	p142
Major consumer durables.....do....	157	177	123	r111	r133	p154
Autos.....do....	153	212	109	59	105	p164
Major household goods.....do....	162	150	r136	r159	159	.....
Other consumer durables.....do....	120	117	115	r118	r122	p116
Adjusted index, total.....do....	152	151	127	r129	r126	p134
Major consumer durables.....do....	168	167	134	r135	r130	p143
Autos.....do....	194	196	125	119	r117	p148
Major household goods.....do....	r147	143	r143	r151	143	.....
Other consumer durables.....do....	114	114	113	r115	115	p113
COMMODITY PRICES						
Wholesale price index, all commodities.....1947-49=100..	111.6	111.2	114.7	115.5	r115.6	115.9
Economic sector:						
Crude materials for further processing.....do....	93.2	89.9	96.4	96.7	95.0	94.9
Intermediate materials, supplies, and components...do....	119.1	119.1	122.6	123.0	r123.6	123.7
Finished goods 1/.....do....	111.3	111.6	114.1	115.3	115.6	116.3
Farm products.....do....	86.8	84.1	89.1	90.1	88.4	87.9
Fruits and vegetables, fresh and dried.....do....	92.9	102.6	94.8	95.3	97.6	104.3
Grains.....do....	82.4	79.8	88.8	90.7	84.0	87.9
Livestock and live poultry.....do....	71.8	62.2	76.0	75.7	73.0	68.6
Foods, processed.....do....	100.2	98.8	102.6	104.0	103.6	103.6
Cereal and bakery products.....do....	114.8	115.1	114.5	r114.6	r115.3	115.8
Dairy products and ice cream.....do....	105.0	105.9	108.9	109.7	110.9	113.6
Fruits and vegetables, canned and frozen.....do....	107.4	107.7	107.3	106.8	106.4	106.3
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do....	81.6	77.8	85.1	89.3	85.7	82.7
Commodities other than farm products and foods.....do....	119.0	119.4	122.5	123.1	123.6	124.2
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	106.5	106.6	107.3	107.1	107.7	108.2
Chemicals, industrial.....do....	118.9	119.3	122.1	121.9	122.6	122.5
Fuel, power, and lighting materials.....do....	108.0	108.6	110.9	111.1	r111.7	111.4
Petroleum and products.....do....	114.2	115.0	118.3	118.4	118.3	117.5
Furniture, other household durables.....do....	116.9	117.2	119.1	119.7	r121.0	121.4
Appliances, household.....do....	106.1	106.3	105.0	105.5	r106.5	106.7
Hides, skins, and leather products.....do....	95.3	96.4	100.0	100.2	r99.7	99.8
Lumber and wood products.....do....	125.4	125.0	125.2	123.6	122.0	121.5
Lumber.....do....	126.8	126.4	127.1	125.2	123.6	123.1
Machinery and motive products.....do....	131.4	132.5	137.7	139.7	r141.1	143.5
Electrical machinery and equipment.....do....	130.7	131.4	138.0	142.0	143.2	143.7
Motor vehicles.....do....	124.7	126.5	129.1	129.4	r130.8	135.9
Metals and metal products.....do....	142.4	142.9	150.2	151.9	r152.2	152.0
Iron and steel.....do....	145.7	146.0	159.4	161.5	161.1	162.4
Nonmetallic minerals, structural.....do....	126.8	125.2	130.8	131.1	131.5	131.3
Pulp, paper, and allied products.....do....	122.8	123.2	127.9	127.9	r128.1	127.8
Paper.....do....	131.2	131.7	138.2	138.9	r139.1	139.2
Rubber and products.....do....	147.8	150.6	146.9	145.7	145.8	146.9
Textile prducts and apparel.....do....	95.4	95.6	94.8	94.8	r95.3	95.4
Apparel.....do....	98.7	99.0	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7
Tobacco manufactures and bottled beverages.....do....	121.7	121.7	122.5	122.8	123.1	123.5
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Engineering construction:						
Contract awards (ENR) 2/.....mil. of dol..	1,526	1,369	1,828	1,480	1,878	1,736
New permanent nonfarm dwelling units started:						
Unadjusted:						
Total, privately and publicly owned.....thousands..	105.8	89.2	r103.9	93.0	93.0	80.0
Privately owned, total.....do....	104.8	88.4	r103.2	89.9	90.8	79.6
In metropolitan areas.....do....	75.8	64.0	r70.5	60.8	62.5	54.1
Publicly owned.....do....	1.0	.8	.7	3.1	2.2	.4
Seasonally adjusted at annual rate:						
Privately owned, total.....do....	1,209.0	1,179.0	r1,136.0	1,000.0	1,050.0	1,060.0
Construction cost indexes:						
American Appraisal Co., The:						
Average, 30 cities.....1913=100..	616	618	641	642	642	644
Atlanta.....do....	665	666	695	696	696	696
New York.....do....	642	643	681	681	681	681
San Francisco.....do....	577	578	597	597	596	595
St. Louis.....do....	607	608	637	637	636	635
Associated General Contractors (all types).....do....	444	446	467	470	470	470
Engineering News-Record: 3/						
Building.....1947-49=100..	141.8	141.6	147.9	147.7	148.0	147.9
Construction.....do....	148.6	148.6	155.6	155.4	155.4	155.4

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Goods to users, including raw foods and fuels. 2/ Data for August and November 1956 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks. 3/ Data reported at the beginning of each month are shown here for the previous month.

AB.139

ITEM	1955		1956			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Iron and steel scrap:						
Production and receipts, total.....thous. of short tons..	7,248	7,213	6,127	r6,733	p7,657	.....
Home scrap produced.....do....	4,002	3,969	3,270	r3,755	p4,160	.....
Purchased scrap received (net).....do....	3,245	3,244	2,857	r2,978	p3,498	.....
Consumption, total.....do....	7,217	7,214	6,108	r6,979	p7,520	.....
Stocks, consumers', end of month.....do....	7,385	7,385	7,027	r6,786	p6,925	.....
Iron ore (Lake Superior district):						
Shipments from upper lake ports.....thous. of long tons..	12,244	7,410	8,045	12,745	12,628	8,801
Steel ingots and steel for castings:						
Production.....thous. of short tons..	10,501	10,247	8,123	10,423	11,049	10,566
Percent of capacity.....	98	99	75	99	101	100
Steel products, net shipments:						
Total (all grades).....thous. of short tons..	7,217	7,248	5,540	7,058	7,931	.....
Semifinished products.....do....	400	435	1/291	367	400	.....
Structural shapes (heavy), steel piling.....do....	461	470	1/472	543	600	.....
Plates.....do....	607	639	1/631	747	796	.....
Rails and accessories.....do....	160	146	1/152	211	215	.....
Bars and tool steel, total.....do....	1,197	1,128	1/1,052	1,124	1,262	.....
Bars: Hot rolled (incl. light shapes).....do....	814	758	1/645	756	849	.....
Reinforcing.....do....	202	194	1/238	234	250	.....
Cold finished.....do....	171	165	1/152	125	152	.....
Pipe and tubing.....do....	877	884	1/857	831	990	.....
Wire and wire products.....do....	361	339	1/339	342	348	.....
Tin mill products (incl. black plate).....do....	367	363	1/544	539	588	.....
Sheets and strip (incl. electrical), total.....do....	2,787	2,843	1/2,492	2,353	2,733	.....
Sheets: Hot rolled.....do....	788	834	1/709	705	840	.....
Cold rolled (incl. enameling).....do....	1,312	1,318	1/1,100	1,046	1,211	.....
Industrial trucks (electric), shipments:						
Hand (motorized).....number..	650	636	554	577	682	.....
Rider type.....do....	449	441	374	442	491	.....
Industrial trucks and tractors (gasoline-powered), shipments.....number..	2,569	2,684	2,137	2,141	2,191	.....
RUBBER AND RUBBER PRODUCTS						
Natural rubber:						
Consumption.....long tons..	54,995	52,769	46,700	r44,179	51,259	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	110,795	103,774	99,668	r98,069	92,300	.....
Synthetic rubber:						
Production.....do....	89,060	91,281	86,468	90,602	88,158	.....
Consumption.....do....	80,389	81,661	72,537	r69,205	80,542	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	134,753	133,664	192,486	r200,793	195,635	.....
Tires and tubes:						
Pneumatic casings:						
Production.....thousands..	9,555	9,603	8,050	7,800	8,799	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	8,117	8,045	8,644	6,952	7,776	.....
Original equipment.....do....	3,495	4,303	2,302	1,553	2,908	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	16,163	17,727	16,794	17,648	18,775	.....
Inner tubes:						
Production.....do....	3,119	3,052	2,795	2,773	3,025	.....
Shipments.....do....	3,004	2,875	3,295	2,777	2,877	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	6,286	6,734	5,962	6,056	6,469	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Data for July and August 1956.

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